

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 048476

20

ORIGIN AF-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 R

66613

DRAFTED BY: AF/W:JWVINCENT

APPROVED BY: AF/W:MR. LOUGHRAN

----- 064590

R 112210Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY BANJUL 2929

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

UNCLAS STATE 048476

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 810 ACTION DEPT MARCH 8TH

QUOTE

UNCLAS USUN 810

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AORG, UN, AFDROUGHT

SUBJ: SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM'S NEWS BRIEFING
ON THE SAHEL

REF: USUN 805

1. SYG WALDHEIM'S NEWS BRIEFING OF MARCH 7 CONTAINED
COMMENTS ABOUT THE SAHEL, REPORTED AS FOLLOWS (SEE
REFTEL FOR SUMMARY ENTIRE NEWS BRIEFING):

2 BEGIN QUOTE

UNITED NATIONS, MAR. 7--THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, REPORTS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 048476

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM, MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ALERTED

SOON ENOUGH AS TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SAHELIAN DROUGHT.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WHO RETURNED TO NEW YORK THIS WEEK FOLLOWING A VISIT OF 14 WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES TOLD UN NEWSMEN MARCH 7, "I KNOW THAT THERE HAVE BEEN CRITICISMS AS TO THE RESPONSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO THIS DISASTER; AND IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY ALERT AT AN EARLY STAGE AS TO THE MAGNITUDE AND SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM. CERTAINLY THE GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES MUST ALWAYS HAVE HOPED THAT THE CHANGED CLIMATIC CONDITIONS, WHICH ARE A BASIC CAUSE OF THE DISASTER, WOULD IMPROVE."

HE NOTED THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE NORTHERN AREAS OF THE AFFLICTED COUNTRIES WHERE THE DROUGHT HIT HARDEST DID NOT MOVE SOUTHWARDS UNTIL AFTER THREE OR FOUR YEARS OF CONTINUOUS DROUGHT-- BELIEVING IN THE MEANTIME THE RAIN WOULD COME THE FOLLOWING SEASON.

MR. WALDHEIM SAID HE PERSONALLY INSPECTED "THE TOLL IN HUMAN SUFFERING, THE DEPLETION OF RESOURCES AND THE SETBACK TO DEVELOPMENT PLANS CAUSED BY THIS TERRIBLE DROUGHT" AND NOTED: "ALTHOUGH GREAT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, IT WILL TAKE A BOLD INTERNATIONAL EFFORT OF ENORMOUS SCOPE TO MITIGATE THE PRESENT SUFFERING AND TO PROVIDE FOR A BETTER FUTURE."

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAW FOOD AND OTHER EMERGENCY SUPPLIES PILING UP IN THE CITIES AND OTHER CENTRAL POINTS, UNABLE TO MOVE INTO THE AREAS WHERE THEY ARE MOST REQUIRED. AIRPORT RUNWAYS ARE TORN UP, ROADS LEADING NORTH DEAD-END INTO SAND, "SAND IS EVERYWHERE," AND THERE AREN'T ENOUGH TRUCKS TO TRANSPORT THE SUPPLIES. "CERTAINLY THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THESE COUNTRIES WAS NOT PREPARED TO CARRY THE BURDEN OF SUCH A VAST EMERGENCY," HE EXPLAINED.

NEVERTHELESS, HE ADDED, HE WITNESSED "SOME OF TH ENORMOUS EFFORT THAT HAS BEEN MADE AND IS BEING MADE, BILATERALLY AND THROUGH EFFORTS COORDINATED BY THE FOOD AND AGRIBULTURAL ORGANIZATION (FAO) TO BRING RELIEF TO THIS AREA."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 048476

AT THE MEETING OF THE INTERSTATE COMMITTEE OF THE DROUGHT AFFLICTED COUNTRIES IN OUAGADOUGOU, THE SECRETARY GENERAL PRESENTED A COMPENDIUM OF 123 PROJECTS DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION. HE INDICATED AT THE UN CONFERENCE THESE PROJECTS INCLUDE IRRIGATION PROJECTS, HIGH DAMS, ROAD CONSTRUCTION, AND WELLS.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL APPEALED TO THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES

INVOLVED TO COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS AND TO THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY TO INCREASE THEIR ASSISTANCE IN MEETING THE
CURRENT EMERGENCY AND THE LONGER-TERM NEEDS.

HE HAS INSTRUCTED UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL BRADFORD
MORSE TO VISIT ELEVEN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO GENERATE
INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. MR. MORSE WILL VISIT OTHER COUNTRIES
LATER. IN A FURTHER EFFORT MR. WALDHEIM SENT UNDER-SECRETARY-
GENERAL DJERMAKOYE, TOGETHER WITH A FAO REPRESENTATIVE, TO
THOSE AREAS WHICH HE WAS UNABLE TO INSPECT PERSONALLY DUE
TO ADVERSE WEATHER AND TRANSPORTATION CONDITIONS. UNQTE.
BENNETT
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, DISASTER RELIEF, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, DROUGHTS, FOOD ASSISTANCE, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE048476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/W:JWVINCENT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740352/aaaabwyf.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 805
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM'S NEWS BRIEFING ON THE SAHEL
TAGS: SWEL, AORG, AF, XY, UN, (WALDHEIM, KURT)
To: MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005